

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A permselective asymmetric hollow fiber membrane being suitable for, ~~for example, hemodialysis, comprised~~ comprising of at least one hydrophobic polymer and at least one hydrophilic polymer, characterized in that wherein an outer surface of the hollow fiber membrane has pores having sizes in the range of ~~0.5~~ 0.5-3 μm , ~~and that the numbers density of said pores on the outer surface being are~~ in the range of 10,000 to 150,000 pores per mm^2 , ~~preferably in the range of 18,000 to 100,000 pores per mm^2 , most preferably in the range of 20,000 to 100,000 pores per mm^2 .~~

2. (Currently Amended) A membrane according to claim 1, wherein said membrane has a four layer structure comprising a first inner separation layer in the form of a dense rather thin layer, a second layer in the form of a sponge structure, a third layer in the form of a finger structure, and a fourth outer layer in the form of a sponge layer having the an outer surface having pores with sizes in the range of 0.5-3 μm , the number of said pores on the outer surface of the sponge layer being in the range of 10,000 to 150,000 pores per mm^2 according to claim 1.

3. (Original) A membrane according to claim 2, wherein said membrane has a diffusive permeability of urea of $15\text{-}17 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm/sec}$ measured at 37°C .

4. (Currently Amended) A membrane according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein said first separation layer has a thickness less than $1 \mu\text{m}$, said second layer

has a thickness of about 1 to 15 μm , said third layer has a thickness of about 20 to 60 μm , and said fourth outer layer has a thickness of about 1 to 10 μm .

5. (Currently Amended) A membrane according to claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1-4, wherein it consists of~~ wherein said membrane is 65-95% by weight of said at least one hydrophobic polymer and 5-35% by weight of said at least one hydrophilic polymer.

6. (Currently Amended) A membrane according to claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1-5, wherein~~ said at least one hydrophobic polymer is chosen from ~~the~~ a group of polymers consisting of polyamide (PA), polyaramide (PAA), polyarylethersulphone (PAES), polyethersulphone (PES), polysulphone (PSU), polyarylsulphone (PASU), polycarbonate (PC), polyether, polyurethane (PUR), polyetherimide, and copolymers of said polymers, ~~preferably polyethersulphone or a mix of polyarylethersulphone and polyamide.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A membrane according to one of claims 1 or 6 ~~anyone of the claims 1-6, wherein~~ the at least one hydrophilic polymer is chosen from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), polyethylene glycol (PEG), polyglycolmonoester, water soluble cellulosic derivates, polysorbate, and polyethylene-polypropylene oxide copolymers, ~~preferably polyvinylpyrrolidone.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process the preparation of for preparing~~ a membrane according to ~~anyone of claims 1-7~~ claim 1 by solvent phase inversion spinning, comprising the steps of:

a) dissolving said at least one hydrophobic polymer and said at least one hydrophilic polymer ~~are dissolved~~ in at least one solvent to form a polymer solution,

b) extruding said formed polymer solution ~~is extruded~~ through an outer ring slit of a nozzle with two concentric openings,

c) extruding a center fluid ~~is extruded~~ through the inner opening of the nozzle, and thereafter

d) washing said membrane, wherein ~~is washed and preferably dried,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ the polymer solution coming out through the outer slit opening is, on the outside of the precipitating fiber, exposed to a humid steam/air mixture comprising a solvent in a content of between 0,5 0.5 and 10% by weight related to the water content.

9. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 8, wherein the solvent content within the humid steam/air mixture is between 0,5 0.5 and 5% by weight related to the water content.

10. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 8, wherein the solvent content within the humid steam/air mixture is between 2 and 3% by weight related to the water content.

11. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim ~~anyone of~~ ~~claims 8 to 10~~, wherein the temperature of the humid steam/air mixture is at least 15°C, ~~preferably at least 30°C, and at most~~ not more than 75°C, ~~preferably at most 60°C.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim ~~anyone of~~ ~~claims 8 to 11~~, wherein the relative humidity in the humid steam/air mixture is between 60 and 100%.

13. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 8 ~~any of~~ ~~claims 8 to 12~~, wherein the polymer solution consists of 10-20% by weight of the at least

one hydrophobic polymer, 3-11% by weight of the at least one hydrophilic polymer, 66-86 % by weight solvent₁ and 1-5 % by weight suitable additives.

14. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 8 ~~anyone of claims 8-13~~, wherein the polymer solution ~~emprise~~ comprises 1-5% by weight coagulation fluid chosen from the group of water, glycerol, and ~~or~~ other alcohols.

15. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 8 ~~anyone of claims 8-14~~, wherein said solvent is chosen from the group comprising n-methylpyrrolidon (NMP), dimethylacetamide (DMAC), dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO), dimethylformamide (DMF), butyrolactone₁ and mixtures of said solvents.

16. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 8 ~~anyone of claims 8-15~~, wherein said center fluid includes a part of said at least one hydrophilic polymer.

17. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 8 ~~anyone of claims 8-16~~, wherein said center fluid includes at least one solvent chosen from the group comprising n-methylpyrrolidon (NMP), dimethylacetamide (DMAC), dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO), dimethylformamide (DMF), butyrolactone₁ and mixtures of said solvents.

18. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 8 ~~anyone of claims 8-17~~, wherein said center fluid includes precipitation medium chosen form the group water, glycerol₁ and other alcohols.

19. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 8 ~~anyone of claims 8-18~~, wherein said center fluid consist of 45-70% by weight precipitation medium, 30-55% by weight solvent₁ and 0-5% by weight said at least one hydrophilic polymer.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a~~ A membrane according to claim 1 ~~anyone~~
~~of claims 1-7 in hemodialysis, configured for~~ hemodiafiltration~~[[,]]~~ and hemofiltration.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a~~ A membrane according to claim 1 ~~anyone~~
~~of claims 1-7 configured for in~~ dialysis and filtration.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a~~ A membrane manufactured according to
~~any of claims 8-19 in hemodialysis, the process of claim 8, said membrane being~~
configured for hemodiafiltration~~[[,]]~~ and hemofiltration.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a~~ A membrane manufactured according to
~~any of claims 8-19 the process of claim 8, said membrane configured for in~~ dialysis and
filtration.

24. (New) A membrane according to claim 1, wherein the density of pores on
the outer surface are in the range of 18,000 to 100,000 pores per mm².

25. (New) A membrane according to claim 1, wherein the density of pores on
the outer surface are in the range of 20,000 to 100,000 pores per mm².

26. (New) A process according to claim 8, wherein the membrane is dried
following the washing step.

27. (New) A process according to claim 8, wherein the temperature of the
humid steam/air mixture is at least 30°C and not greater than 60°C.